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Baby Steps for Chloe

Tue, 2013-04-02 11:41 — Robin Olson

It's been almost two weeks since the grossly overweight and possibly abused kitty, Chloe, was removed from her home and placed under the care of [Animals in Distress](#) [1]. For now, Chloe is staying with my friend, Katherine, who oversees intake of all the cats in the AID program and is a very savvy foster mom.

Chloe has had a peaceful few weeks and after only one incident I reported initially, Chloe has not lashed out at Katherine. **In fact, Chloe is showing signs of relaxing and learning to trust again.**



©2013 Katherine Reid. Hopefully this is one of the last photo you'll see of Chloe's back mats! Katherine is starting to remove them.

The first few days were the toughest. Chloe would not move, urinated and defecated on herself and barely ate. Katherine tried to clean her off, but was met with so much resistance that we all decided it was best to leave her alone. Katherine focused on offering Chloe a variety of grain-free dry food as her first attempt to get Chloe moving in the right direction.

Chloe took to one of the brands and began to eat. **Katherine also offered Chloe some plain chicken baby food from a spoon, which encouraged Chloe to both regard Katherine in a positive way and to help Chloe want to interact, instead of withdraw.**

Katherine had to move slowly and not do too much. **It was easy to upset Chloe**, so she did less, instead of overload her. With the guidance of our friend [Wendy Christensen](#) [2], cat behaviorist and author, she kept the pace to baby steps only.



©2013 Katherine Reid. *Is that a smile I see?*

Chloe began using her litter pan and eating more than a mouthful of food. **With such an obese cat, we have to be careful NOT to restrict her food intake as much as IMPROVE her food, for now. Once she is stable, she will no longer be free-fed** and will begin the process of eating grain-free canned food, in monitored amounts, until she can lose some weight.

Chloe also may have bad teeth and an ear infection- both issues will be dealt with as soon as we feel Chloe can be handled without it putting her into a panic. We're hoping that at least the ear issues may resolve, to some degree, with better food. Her body may be reacting to the grain in the food by making her ears get a build up of material. It's unlikely she has ear mites, but **she WILL get the treatment as soon as it's safe to do so.**



©2013 Katherine Reid. *Chloe's sweetness may be starting to emerge-and what a cute face she has!*

This morning I got a note from Katherine that she had another small breakthrough. **Last night she was able to brush Chloe's face, which she liked,** and while she was brushing Chloe, Katherine managed to pick out a few of the mats on the cat's back (*which she pulled out easily without causing any irritation to Chloe*). **As you can see in the photos, Chloe looks like she's almost smiling and for that, we are all very pleased** and hopeful that Chloe's story will continue to be one filled with promise. I know we're all rooting for this kitty to make it through this difficult time.

Animals in Distress is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. If you'd like to make a donation to help with Chloe's long-term care, you can use this [LINK to their PayPal account](#) ^[1]. Thank you!



©2013 Katherine Reid. Lucy, safe in her new foster home.

UPDATE: **Shortly after Chloe was returned from the home, the former guardian called saying that Lucy HAD to go, too.** Lucy has been placed with AID and is doing well. **I've met this cat and she's VERY friendly and gets on well with other cats, too. If you live in CONNECTICUT and would like to know more about Lucy, please visit [her PETFINDER PAGE!](#)** ^[3].

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Comments

Tue, 2013-04-02 13:17 — [Stephanie Newman \(not verified\)](#) ^[17]

[Chloe](#) ^[18]

This is great news. Chloe looks so much more relaxed as if she's glowing. She's very stunning. Stories like Chloe's are some of my favorites to read and write about because the stories are about helping cats blossom.

Tue, 2013-04-02 14:58 — jmuwj (not verified)

[RE: SWEET CHLOE, and LUCY](#) ^[19]

I've been sharing sweet Chloe on my s/n pages and continue to do so, with love and *PRAYERS* for her to be restored to health and find the loving, adoring permanent home she deserves. She is a beautiful girl -- I could see that from the first photos -- and eminently adoptable once she slims down a bit and has reason to be able to trust for a length of time.

PRAYERS for Lucy, too. She's also very adoptable!

Tue, 2013-04-02 18:39 — Laurie T (not verified)

[This is great news. I'm](#) ^[20]

This is great news. I'm optimistic that this story is only going to get better and better, and Chloe deserves it. Thanks for this update!

CICH @ [Google+](#)
Robin @ [Google+](#)

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Links

[1] <http://www.animals-in-distress.com/adoptioninfo.html>

[2] <http://www.wendycats.com/>

- [3] <http://www.petfinder.com/petdetail/25749688>
- [4] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>
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